

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the efficiency of a wood pulping process using a displacement batch digester wherein said displacement batch digester uses untreated pulp washing fluid to displace hot black liquor from said digester to an accumulator, comprising the step of passing said untreated pulp washing fluid through incorporating into a digester liquor recirculating system in filtration media to remove high molecular weight organic by-products from said washing fluid prior to said washing fluid being used to displace said hot black liquor recirculating liquor.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the efficiency of a wood pulping process incorporating storage of spent liquor prior to passing said spent liquor through an evaporation step with said spent liquor from said evaporation step sent to a recovery boiler for burning, comprising the step of: passing one of, said liquor entering said storage facility, said

liquor being withdrawn from said storage facility, or said liquor both entering and being withdrawn from said storage facility to a filtration step to remove high molecular weight organic by-products from said liquor whereby less high molecular weight organic by-products enter said evaporator thereby reducing hydraulic throughput required in said evaporator.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the efficiency of a wood pulping process incorporating accumulation of spent liquor prior to passing said spent liquor through an evaporation step with said spent liquor from said evaporation step sent to a recovery boiler for burning, comprising the step of: passing one of said liquor entering said accumulation facility, said liquor being withdrawn from said accumulation facility, or said liquor both entering and being withdrawn from said accumulation facility, to a filtration step to remove high molecular weight organic by-products from said liquor whereby less high molecular weight organic by-products enter said evaporator thereby reducing hydraulic throughput required in said evaporator.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the efficiency of a wood pulping process incorporating dilution of pulp comprising the step of:

withdrawing a one of liquor or filtrate containing high molecular weight organic by-products from any washing process step;

passing said filtrate through a filter media to remove high molecular weight organic by-products to yield a treated filtrate with a lower concentration of colloidal and/or high molecular weight organic by-products; and

using said treated liquor or filtrate in any dilution zone, pipe or equipment in said pulping process to dilute said pulp.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the efficiency of a wood pulping process including fiber washing in a multi-stage washing process comprising the steps of: separating a washing liquid from said washed fibers in one of a last stage or any stage except said first stage of said multi-stage washing process, passing said washing liquid through a filtration media to remove high molecular weight organic by-products from said washing liquid to produce a clean washing liquid having a reduced quantity of high molecular weight organic by-products, and using said clean washing liquid having a reduced quantity of high molecular weight organic by-products in a stage of said multi-stage washing process preceding the stage from which said washing liquid was withdrawn as a washing liquid.

23. (Original) A method for improving the efficiency of a wood pulping process that includes oxygen as a delignification stage proceeded by and followed by washing of pulp comprising the steps of:

separating washing fluid from said pulp after one of any of the washing steps proceeding, or any of the washing steps following said oxygen delignification step, passing said separated washing fluid from said pulp through a filtration media to remove high molecular weight organic by-products from said washing fluid to produce a cleaned washing fluid, and using said cleaned washing fluid in any one of any washing operation or to dilute said pulp prior to after or during oxygen delignification.